We Claim:

1.   A color characterization profile format comprising:

a color management measurement data portion; and

a container, wherein said container is configured to provide digital rights management capabilities.

2.   The color characterization profile format of claim 1, wherein said container includes at least one linked and embedded object.

3.   The color characterization profile format of claim 1, wherein said container includes extensible markup language.

4.   The color characterization profile format of claim 1, wherein said container is an advanced systems format container.

5.   The color characterization profile format of claim 1, wherein said container is configured to enable private data extensions.

6.   The color characterization profile format of claim 5, wherein said container is configured to operate interface description language, and to store a rendering intent separate from the color management measurement data portion, wherein said container includes at least one linked and embedded object.

7.   The color characterization profile format of claim 1, wherein said container is configured to operate interface description language.

8.   The color characterization profile format of claim 1, wherein said container is configured to store a rendering intent separate from the color management measurement data portion.

9.   The color characterization profile format of claim 1, wherein said container is configured to be edited by a text editor application.

10.   The color characterization profile format of claim 1, wherein said container is configured to prevent tampering with the color characterization profile format.

11.   The color characterization profile format of claim 1, wherein said container is operable across a plurality of operating platforms.

12.   The color characterization profile format of claim 1, wherein the container is configured to permit incorporation of executable code.

13.   The color characterization profile format of claim 12, wherein the executable code provides instructions to translate the color management measurement data portion into color management representations.

14.   A computer-readable medium having a computer-executable data structure for maintaining a color characterization profile format, the data structure comprising:

        a color management measurement data portion; and

        a container, wherein said container is configured to provide digital rights management capabilities.

15.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein said container includes at least one linked and embedded object.

16.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein said container is configured to enable private data extensions.

17.   The computer-readable medium of claim 16, wherein said container is configured to operate interface description language, and to store a rendering intent separate from the color

management measurement data portion, wherein said container includes at least one linked and embedded object.

18.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein said container is configured to operate interface description language.

19.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein said container is configured to store a rendering intent separate from the color management measurement data portion.

20.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein said container is configured to be edited by a text editor application.

21.   A software architecture for maintaining a color characterization profile format, comprising:

at least one component configured to maintain color management measurement data and a container, said container configured to provide digital rights management capabilities; and

at least one application program interface to access the at least one component.

22.   The software architecture of claim 21, wherein the at least one application program interface is configured to access the at least one component responsive to a request.

23.   A color characterization profile comprising:

intra-device objective measurement data;

analytical device model parameter data; and

timing data representing when the intra-device measurement data and analytical device model parameter data was last edited.

24.   The color characterization profile of claim 23, wherein the analytical device model parameter data is derived from statistical analysis of a series of target measurements.

25.   The color characterization profile of claim 23, wherein the timing data determines which of the intra-device objective measurement data and the analytical device model parameter data is used by an application program.

26.   The color characterization profile of claim 23, further comprising a container, wherein the container is configured to provide digital rights management capabilities.

27.   The color characterization profile of claim 26, wherein the digital rights management capabilities prevent changes to the intra-device objective measurement data and the analytical device model parameter data.

28.   The color characterization profile of claim 26, wherein the container includes extensible markup language.

29.   The color characterization profile of claim 26, wherein the container is an advanced systems format container.

30.   The color characterization profile of claim 23, further comprising executable code.

31.   The color management characterization profile of claim 30, wherein the executable code provides instructions to translate the intra-device objective measurement data into color measurement representations.

32.   The color management characterization profile of claim 30, wherein the executable code provides instructions to translate the analytical device model parameter data into color measurement representations.